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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/928,594 -	08/13/2001	Luiz R. Duarte	41482/261574	7902

30559 7590 03/29/2006

CHIEF PATENT COUNSEL
SMITH & NEPHEW, INC.
1450 BROOKS ROAD
MEMPHIS, TN 38116

EXAMINER

SMITH, RUTH S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3737

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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09/928 594

EXAMINER

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20060328

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Commissioner for Patents

See attachment

Ruth S. Smith
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3737

Upon reconsideration by the examiner, the previous office action has been withdrawn and the following has been set forth. The RCE filed 10/3/05 contained claims directed to a species not previously examined. The claims originally presented and acted upon by the Office on their merits determine the invention elected by an applicant in the application and in any request for continued examination.

Newly submitted claims 36-40 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: The claims are directed to the patentably distinct species of figures 8-9.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 36-40 withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

The amendment filed on March 13, 2006 canceling all claims drawn to the elected invention and presenting only claims drawn to a non-elected invention is non-responsive (MPEP § 821.03). The remaining claims are not readable on the elected invention because they are directed to the patentably distinct species of figures 8-9.

Since the above-mentioned amendment appears to be a *bona fide* attempt to reply, applicant is given a TIME PERIOD of ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this notice within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) ARE AVAILABLE.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth S. Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-4745. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 AM-4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 571-272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3737

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ruth S. Smith
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3737

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